

**WETLAND EVALUATION FORM
HILTON HEAD ISLAND**

Permanent / Intermittent Flooding

Location of property with subject wetland/wetlands (SW): _____

Owner/Agent: _____

Number of wetlands on property: _____ **Total wetland area:** _____ Ac

Delineation approved by Army Corps? Y ____ N ____ **Date:** _____

Note on scoring: All “Yes” answers (Y) equal 10 points; all “No” answers equal 0 points, unless otherwise indicated. Multiple lists are scored per directions following each question.

I. GEOGRAPHY

1. Landscape position of SW:

1. Covered by marine waters
2. Fringe to marine waters
3. Open tidal marsh
4. Upper tidal marsh boundary seaward of SCCC Critical Line
5. Fringe to tidal marsh landward of SCCC Critical line
6. Fringe to flowing fresh water or drainage course leading to a larger surface water body
7. Isolated basin
5. Isolated depression between dune ridges

Scoring: 1-4 = 15; 5-6=10; 7-8=5

2. Topography of SW and adjacent lands: List by %

- (1) over 8% (2) 2-8% (3) 0-2%

Scoring: (1) = 15; (2) = 10; (3) = 5

3. Other wetlands present within 500 feet from the edge of the SWs: Y ____ N ____

4. If “Yes” to # 3, list the landscape position of other wetlands within 500 feet from the edge of the SW. Attach the appropriate scoring.

5. Is the SW within ½ mile of tidal waters? Y ____ N ____

6. Is the SW a “unique heritage” system with rare landscape position on Hilton Head Island? Y ____ N ____
7. Is the SW part of a cluster of wetlands within 500 feet of the edge of the SW? Y ____ N ____
8. Green links: Is the SW connected to other wetlands within 550 feet by vegetated or surface water corridors? Y ____ N ____ Circle the appropriate answer.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION I: 95 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

II VEGETATION

1. Do normal environmental conditions exist in the vegetative community in the SW? Y ____ N ____
2. Is vegetation disturbed in the SW? N ____ Y ____ “N” = 10; “Y” = 0

Circle the vegetation disturbances, including but not limited to filling, dredging, draining, flooding, shadowing by structures, clear cutting, burning, dumping, compaction, vehicular traffic or other: _____

3. Is the SW “man-induced” from spoil disposal, farming, impounding, excavation, creation as mitigation or other human activities? N ____ Y ____ “N”=10; “Y”=0
Circle the appropriate answer.

4. List the Prevalence Index for the SW: _____. Is the Prevalence Index:
 ____ 1.0 – 1.9 (15 Points)
 ____ 2.0 – 2.5 (10 Points)
 ____ >2.5 (5 Points)

5. Categorize the vegetation diversity:
 ____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
 ____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
 ____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)

6. Categorize the edge irregularity:
 ____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
 ____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
 ____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)

7. Do unusual or rare vegetation species inhabit the SW? Y ____ N ____ Name them.

8. Do morphological adaptations exist in plants in the SW and/or the nonwetland perimeter? Y ____ N ____ (within ____ feet of SW)

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION II: 95 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

III SOILS

1. SCS Soil Series of SW (per the delineation data sheets):

(1) Capers	(4) Polawana	(7) Fripp-Baratari
(2) Bohicket	(5) Rhosedhu	(8) Sewee
(3) Coastal Beach	(6) Baratari	(9) Williman

Scoring: (1)-(3) = 15; (4)-(6) = 10; (7)-(9) = 5

2. Categorize the primary source of sediment:

_____ Water column	(15 Points)
_____ Overland runoff	(10 Points)
_____ Detritus	(5 Points)

3. Physical soil disturbance observed: N ____ Y ____

“N”=10; “Y”=0. Indicators: Tilling; filling; grading; dumping; excavation; berming; impoundment(s); vehicular travel causing compaction and/or rutting; sedimentation; substrate erosion; ditching; trenching; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate indicator.

4. High nutrient concentration observed: N ____ Y ____

“N”=10; “Y”=0. Factors to consider: Algal bloom, eutrophication, reclaimed water (advanced-treated effluent) disposal; sewage (not advanced-treated effluent) input; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate factors.

5. Contamination sources observed or reported: N ____ Y ____ “N”=10; “Y”=0.

List date of observation or report: _____. Evidence of waterborne or sedimentary contaminants: sewage outfalls; landfills; leaking subsurface tanks; pesticide treated area; oil runoff; heavily traveled highways; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate factors.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION III: 60 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

IV HYDROLOGY

1. **Categorize the flooding duration of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):**
____ Very long/long (10 Points)
____ Long (5 Points)
____ None (0 Points)
2. **Categorize the high water table (below surface) of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):**
____ +1.0 – 1.0 ft. (15 Points)
____ 1.0 – 1.5 ft. (10 Points)
____ >1.5 ft. (5 Points)
3. **What percentage is SW permanently saturated at surface?**
____ > or equal to 67% (15 Points)
____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
4. **Is the SW's existence dependent upon a water control device, either upstream or downstream?** N ____ Y ____ "N"=10; "Y"=0
5. **Are there any disturbances to hydrology in the SW?** N ____ Y ____
"N"=10; "Y"=0 Disturbances include: Turbidity from runoff; groundwater withdrawal; diversion/alteration of runoff into or out of the SW; alteration of runoff through SW; unstable, transitional channels; reduction of flood storage; flooding with reclaimed water; impoundments artificially maintaining water levels above natural hydroperiod; other (list): _____
Circle the appropriate answer.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION IV: 60 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

V HABITAT VALUE

1. **Is protective cover for fish prevalent?** Y ____ N ____ Circle the type of cover: Moderately dense aquatic vegetation; submerged logs/stumps; tree roots; rocks; overhanging vegetation; crevices; undercut banks; other (list): _____
2. **Is waterfowl habitat:** >50% of SW ____ (10 Points);
< 50% of SW ____ (5 Points)
3. **Is dissolved oxygen known to be limiting for fish populations?** N ____ Y ____

“N”=10; “Y”=0

4. Categorize the SW’s productivity for water-dependent birds.

- _____ Food, cover & surface water (15 Points)
- _____ Cover & surface water (10 Points)
- _____ Either food only; cover only; surface water only (5 Points)
- _____ No food, cover and/or surface water (0 Points)

5. Is the SW habitat for listed (Fed./SC) rare, threatened or endangered species or species of special concern? Y _____ N _____

6. Does SW have basking sites available for reptiles? Y _____ N _____

7. Is there evidence of disturbance to wildlife (including hunting, trapping, baiting, etc.) or evidence of dead animals on site? N _____ Y _____ “N”=10; “Y”=0

8. Are hollow trees for denning/nesting/roosting sites:

- _____ Plentiful (15 Points)
- _____ Occasional (10 Points)
- _____ Rare (5 Points)

9. Does SW serve as drinking water source for wildlife?

- _____ Year-round (15 Points)
- _____ Seasonal (10 Points)
- _____ Temporary (5 Points)

10. Categorize the community interspersion (varying, mixed edge):

- _____ High = > 66% (15 Points)
- _____ Moderate = 33-66% (10 Points)
- _____ Low = 0-33% (5 Points)

11. Categorize the habitat diversity:

- _____ High (15 Points) Includes:
 - Bottomland hardwood;
 - Large, vegetatively diverse wetland >5 acres;
 - Moderately-sized wetlands (1-5 acres) that are oases or part of a cluster with moderate to high community interspersion.
- _____ Moderate (10 Points) Includes any blending of high and low value habitat diversity.
- _____ Low (5 Points) Includes:
 - Forested, scrub-shrub or moss wetland(s) not connected to adjoining forests by vegetated or water corridors;

- Small (< 1 acre) wetlands with potential toxic inputs; estuarine or marine wetlands exposed to waves, or without vegetation; and/or
- Palustrine or lacustrine wetlands that (1) have low vegetation diversity; or (2) are surrounded with urban development and have no connecting corridors; or (3) small wetlands with low vegetation diversity, low edge irregularity, no open water and are not part of an oases or cluster.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION V: 135 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

VI SOCIAL VALUE

- 1. Is the SW in a rapid wetland loss area?** Y _____ N _____
- 2. Does on-going recreation take place in the SW?** Y _____ N _____
Circle the activities: Hiking, birding, organized photography, sailing, power boating, non-power small boating, water skiing, horseback riding, other (list): _____

- 3. Is the SW used for education?** Y _____ N _____
Circle the activities: Research, monitoring, educational field trips, outdoor overlooks, interpretive displays, other (list): _____
- 4. Is the SW owned by an organized conservation group or public agency for the primary purpose of preservation, ecological enhancement and/or low-intensity recreation?** Y _____ N _____
- 5. Have substantial public and/or private funds been provided to preserve the SW?**
Y _____ N _____ A "Y" answer may be made to any one or more of the following (circle the appropriate answer): Property purchase; conservation easement; access improvement; fisheries improvement; water quality improvement; buffer conservation; seeding/plant installation; grade improvement; hydrology improvement; wildlife habitat enhancement; fencing; other (list): _____
- 6. Does the SW represent all or most (>50%) of this wetland system on Hilton Head Island?** Y _____ N _____
- 7. Are there any point sources of pollution in nearby areas that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____ Describe: _____

- 8. Are there any features of economic value in the SW or within 500 feet of the SW that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____
Describe: _____

9. **Is the SW used for consumptive activities?** Y _____ N _____ Circle the activities:
Aquaculture, commercial/sport fishing, hunting, plant nursery, silviculture, water supply,
other (list): _____
10. **Does the SW exist in an area where flood water storage is important?**
Y _____ N _____ SW is in Flood Zone _____.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION VI: 100 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: 545 Points
ACTUAL SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: _____

SCORING KEY

360 – 545 Points	NO ALTERATION IS PERMITTED
359 – and below	Some alteration may be permitted depending on section scoring (see wetland ordinance for details).